Numb. 51

The Daily Gazetteer.

Wednesday, August 27. 1735.

The Case of the Bank Contract.

Answer to the infamous Scurrilities of several Libels lately printed in the Craftsman.

THE unexampled Abuse which hath, for some time past, been offered to a *Character of the greatest Distinction*, and the constant Repetition of these Insults, on some Pretences concerning the Bank Contract, make it highly reasonable that this whole Transaction should be laid to the World, and the Honesty of those Persons ayed, who have made such bold Attacks on the ls of other Men.

HE whole Foundation of the Clamour consists in a rence between two Pamphlets published since last ssmas. One of them intitled, *Some Considerations on ublick Funds*, &c. tells us, that an *Honourable Per*who is mentioned therein by Name — Sir *R* — — was present at no other Meeting of the *Bank South Sea Companies* than of *Tuesday September* 20, o. at which Time the first *Sketch* of an Agreement drawn, wherein there were *Blanks* left to be filled with the principal Terms to be settled between the Companies; and the same Pamphlet further af-, that this Great Person assisted at no other Meetnor drew any other Paper concerning this Affair.

HE other Pamphlet, called *The Case of the Sinking* , &c. asserts, that the Great Person was present Meeting on the *Friday* following, where the Agreewas perfected by filling up the Blanks, and a r called the *Original Bank Contract* then drawn up own Hand-writing.

HIS Difference therefore *wholly consists* in these ts, 'Whether the Gentleman was present at *one eting* only, or at *two Meetings* of the Companies? d whether he only drew the *Sketch* of the Agreement, drew both the *Sketch* and the *Agreement* itself?'

these Facts how are we to be informed? If the Great Person himself, he must trust to his ory of a Transaction *fourteen* or *fifteen Years* past, which he hath been employed in the greatest rs of this Nation, and hath continually had his ughts filled with so many and various Concerns, it is not possible for him, or any one in the like umstance, at such a Distance of Time, to tie him down with a scrupulous Exactness in giving the ick any Account of this Matter; but if it be ne- y to give one at all, he must give the best he is , and there he must rest the Debate, till they can a more full or certain Information.

GAIN, of what Importance are these Facts, when shall be most strictly ascertained? It is of very Weight, whether he met the Companies *once* or ; or whether he drew only the *Sketch of an Agree*, or both the *Sketch* and the *Agreement* itself. It mitted on all Hands, that he did employ his *Influ- with the Bank* to assist the *South Sea* Company in Distress, by taking Stock at an higher Price what it was falling to at Market, in order to keep he Publick Credit at that dreadful Conjuncture. It kewise admitted, that the Event of Things made it ossible afterwards for the *Bank* to take the Stock ed for, without involving themselves in Ruin, and ing the Ruin universal. These then are the only nts of *real* Importance; and the Publick are to e, whether the *Great Person* may be justified in per- ing the *Bank* to an Agreement, which was then ught necessary to the Salvation of the *South Sea* mpany; or whether, when it unhappily failed to ver that great End of saving the *South Sea* Company, could in Law, or ought in Conscience, to have pelled a Performance of it, even to the *Destruction he Bank*.

THIS being the true and genuine State of the Case, pped of all Prevarication and Disguise, 'tis evident the Light of the Day, that to wander from these, *only Points* of Debate, and to raise an Uproar con- ning the Narrative of *minute Incidents*, wherein any n's Memory may fail him, and which in themselves are of no Importance to the Controversy; in short, to pronounce a Transaction of this Sort, the most *infamous* Project, and *ruinous* Fraud, *merely* from a Difference between *two Pamphlets* published *fourteen* or *fifteen* Years *after the Transaction*, and differing in such Points, as whether there were *one* Meeting or *two* Meetings; *one* Paper or *two* Papers; a *Sketch with Blanks*; or an *Agreement with Blanks filled up*: Surely this Manner of treating the Debate is without Example, without Justice, and without Sense; an Abuse upon human Reason, as well as an outrageous Insult upon a Person of great Distinction, and of high Trust in the Councils of the Kingdom.

HAVING thus cleared away the Rubbish, we must now come to the Truth; wherein, that the Adversary may have all Advantage, we will enter into no Disquisition on those weighty Matters, at how many *Meetings* the Honourable Gentleman was present, or how many *Papers* he drew. We will suppose him to have been a Party in the Consummation of the Matter, and appeal to the Judgment of Mankind, whether he is not justifiable, even as *Author of the* ORIGINAL *Bank Contract* itself, that very Paper which hath been produced with such indecent Triumph; and which, if it really contains no Sort of Guilt, will furnish his Enemies with no Sort of Triumph.

THE Points which have been controverted being thus considered, we must now proceed to Facts which stand uncontradicted: That at a Time when the *Great Person* was not in the Administration of Affairs, nor employed in the Disposition of the publick Revenue, J——N A——BIE Esq; was *Chancellor of his late Majesty's Exchequer*, who having (as is declared in the Act of the seventh Year of the late King, *Cap.* 28.) *in Breach of the great Trusts in him reposed, and with a View to his own exorbitant Profit, combined with the late Directors of the* South Sea Company *in their pernicious Practices, and been* GUILTY OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND INFAMOUS CORRUPTION, *to the Detriment of his Majesty's Subjects, and manifest Prejudice of the Publick Credit, and of the Trade of the Kingdom.* This Gentleman, with his Associates, in the Midst of that Distress wherein they had involved this Nation, at a Time when *South Sea Stock* was falling from that Height to which they had most fraudulently raised it, and when they were likely to be torn in Pieces by the distracted Populace; they first applied to the BANK for Relief in this terrible Exigency of Affairs, and then to the GREAT PERSON concerned in this Debate, whom they sent for by an Express to come to them from his Retirement in the Country; and when he came up, drew him into a Meeting with a Committee of Directors appointed by each Company.

THIS all Men agree to have been the Rise of the whole Affair. Was this then a Business *sollicited* by Sir R——— W———? Did he *contrive* the Meeting? Did he come thither from any *Views* of his own? Could he come thither with *any Fraud* in his Heart, when he scarcely knew what was the Purpose of the Meeting? Was it *his Project*, when Multitudes of People of all Ranks thronged the *Bank*, threatened to pull it down, and almost to massacre the *Directors*, if they did not come into some Measure to relieve the Distress of the *South Sea* Company? Or rather, was it not A — BIE's Meeting, A — BIE's Business, A — BIE's Project? He who had involved the Nation in Ruin, and who was drove to such Expedients, as the only Means to prevent that Ruin from falling immediately on his own Head.

THE Meeting being thus procured, the Proposition to be made was this, 'That if the *Bank* would agree 'to buy a Quantity of *South Sea Stock* at an high Price, 'it would give the *South Sea Company* Credit, it would 'stop the Alarm that was then spreading; it would 'raise the Market Price that was then fallen, and ease 'the Minds of Men till something better could be pro'posed for the Remedy of their Distractions.'

WAS this Sir *R*——— *W*———'s Proposition? Or did he want it for the Ease of any Difficulty wherein he had involved himself or his Country? Or could he want it for any Advantage to himself? Or could he propose it to the *Bank*, or advise them who depended on his Advice to come into it, for any Ends but to relieve the general Calamity, and to prevent the *precipitate* Fall of the Stock? If these Ends were not to be attained by such Means, did he delude himself, or was he not persuaded to hope that such Means would be effectual? Was he not *begged, pray'd, importuned* and *wearied* till *Three* or *Four* in the Morning to consent that the Trial might be made? And was it not A——BIE that was suing to him in all this Transaction? crying out *For God's Sake help us — We shall be undone — We shall be torn in Pieces if you don't help us.* — Nay, I have heard from those who were present at the Meeting, that when the *Minutes of their Agreement* were to be taken in Writing, and the Company looked upon one another to see who should take the Pen, the *Great Person* called to Mr. A——BIE, then *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, as being the most proper on Account of his Office; but that the most *modest* and *complaisant* Mr. A——BIE intreated the *Honourable Gentleman to take it into his own Hand*, as due to his superior Abilities, and to his happy Influence in the Mediation of tha tAffair.

VIEW this Transaction then in its natural Light; Mr. A——BIE in his Distress supplicating this *Honourable Person* to come an Hundred Miles to this Meeting, imploring his Consent to this *Bank Contract*, as the only thing in the World that could save the Government, that could save the Companies, that could save Publick Credit, and above all the only thing that could save his *dearest Self* from being swallowed up quick in Destruction. At length after keeping up at a *Meeting almost all Night*, by this infinite Importunity, prevailing with the *Great Person* and the *Bank* to come into the Measure, and then with the humblest Deference requesting the *Great Person* to draw up the Agreement; yet *Fourteen* or *Fifteen* Years afterwards appearing on the Publick Stage, pretending to have *pocketed that very Paper* which he prevailed on the *Honourable Gentleman* to draw, producing this Act, which *he* forced that *Honourable Person* into, as an infamous Act, and pretending it to be a *worse* Project even than his own *Infernal South Sea* Scheme. If ever any Procedure deserved Detestation; if *Baseness*, *Perfidy*, and *Ingratitude*, ought to be most odious to Men, this Conduct must *brand* him with INFAMY more lasting even than that with which he was *stigmatized* by the Judgment of the *Legislative Power*, declared and perpetuated by the most solemn ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

BEFORE I dismiss Mr. A——BIE, I must animadvert on a very scandalous Suggestion which the same Hands have offer'd to *extenuate* the Frauds of his *South Sea Scheme*, by throwing most false Imputations on Sir *R* —— *W* ——.

THEY say that the *Great Person*, by opposing the *Bank* to the *South Sea Company*, in the Undertaking of paying the Publick Debts, was Author of that *Competition* between the Companies when they tried who should *outbid each other*, and thereby worked up the *South Sea Company* to the Exorbitant Offers which they made, and by which they prevailed in their fraudulent Designs.

TO this it must be replied, that none but the *virtuous* Mr. A——BIE and *his Comrades* could know that the *South Sea Company* were determined to out-bid every thing rather than lose the Benefit of this *execrable* Fraud. But that the Intentions of the *Bank* and their Friends, were most unexceptionably Just, and that they were zealous to prevent all Fraud, by putting it even out of their own Power to carry on any such villainous Traffick as the Managers of the *South Sea* Scheme intended and effected, may be made most manifest from the SECOND *Proposals of the Bank* delivered in Parliament, wherein they conclude, 'That no Doubt may remain of their 'sincere Intentions, they are content to be obliged to 'offer to the several Proprietors of the Annuities of '*Ninety-six* and *Ninety-nine Years*, SEVENTEEN HUN'DRED POUNDS Bank Stock for every *Hundred Pounds* 'per Annum, who shall voluntarily agree for the same 'on or before the *Twenty-fourth* of *June* 1720, and the 'like Proportion for the Remainder of the *shorter* 'Terms.'

LET the whole World judge what Veracity or Morals can be in Men who publish Slander in so profligate a Manner, and who notwithstanding the Notoriety and Conviction of their *own Guilt*, vilify the Opposition which was made to their ruinous Fraud and Sales of this Nation.

Adver-

Advertisement concerning the

BANK CONTRACT.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Seventh Year of his late Majesty King *George* the First, Chapter the 28th, entitled, *An Act for raising Money upon the Estates of the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, &c of the* South Sea *Company*, &c. It is amongst other Things therein DECLARED, "That *J*—— *A*——, "Esqs late *Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer*, and one of the *Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury*, and a *Member of the House of Commons*, in "Breach of the great Trusts in him reposed, and "with a View to his own exorbitant Profit, had combined with the late *Directors of the South Sea Company* "in their pernicious Practices, and had been GUILTY "OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND MOST INFAMOUS CORRUPTIONS, to the Detriment of great "Numbers of his Majesty's Subjects, and to the manifest Prejudice of the Publick Credit, and of the "Trade of the Kingdom." And whereas the said *J*—— *A*—— not repenting himself of his execrable Wickedness, nor making Attonement for his *infamous Corruptions*, continues to insult a plundered Nation, by erecting Palaces and extending Parks, with a Profusion of Expence, manifesting most prodigious Rapine. And whereas not ashamed of his most fraudulent, corrupt, and ruinous Transactions in the fatal *South Sea* Year, he endeavours with a Profligacy equal to his Corruption, to throw all the Guilt and Mischief of that whole Affair on a Person no ways concerned therein, by imputing a Proceeding, called the BANK CONTRACT, to the Contrivance of that Person, though it appears that he himself projected, sollicited, advised, importuned, and prayed for the making of that Contract: This is therefore to warn all his Majesty's good Subjects not to believe a Word or Syllable which comes from a Man, declared by Act of Parliament to have been *Guilty of the most dangerous and* infamous *Corruptions*. And this is likewise to desire all *Judges, Justices, Constables, Beadles, Bailiffs, Hangmen*, &c. that if the said *J*—— *A*—— persists in the Repetition of his enormous Crimes, that they do apprehend him, where-ever they find him, in order to bring him to condign Punishment.

Late on Monday Night came in the Mail due that Day from Holland, *with a circumstantial Confirmation of the total Defeat of the Turks in Persia, which came by an Express from that Country to the Court at Petersburg. The most material Particulars are these, as we find them in an Article from thence dated the 12th of August.*

THAMAS Kouli-Kan having defeated a Body of 15,000 Turks commanded by the Bashaw Temir near Teflis, march'd with his Army towards Carsa, in order to attack the Seraskier Abdullach Bashaw, who had posted himself with his Troops under the Cannon of that Place. He did all he could to bring him to a general Engagement; but the latter refusing to give him Battle, Kouli-Kan could only harass him, which he did with so much Success, that after several Skirmishes, that always prov'd to the Disadvantage of the Turks, the Seraskier was at last obliged to shut himself up within the Town of Carsa. Upon this the Persian General detach'd part of his Troops to block up Teflis, and march'd with the rest of his Army towards Erivan, where was a numerous Garison of Turks, whose Commander seeing the Persians approach, march'd out with the greatest Part of his Troops to attack them. A very smart Action ensued, but the Turks were obliged to retire into the Town with considerable Loss, and Kouli-Kan posted his Troops round the Place. During this, the Seraskier Abdullach Bashaw taking the Opportunity of the Persian General's Absence, drew his Army out of Carsa, joyn'd several Bashaws that were on the March with numerous Bodies, and resolved to go and attack Kouli-Kan, who was no sooner inform'd of the Seraskier's March, but he abandon'd the Neighbourhood of Erivan, and went and posted himself in a very advantageous Situation, four Leagues from that Place. Abdullach Bashaw, who little suspected that the Persian General's Retreat was only a Cloak for a Stratagem, was the more eager for pursuing his Enemy, because he had just received a Reinforcement of 10,000 Men from Erivan, and his Army being increased to 80,000 Men, he did not doubt of beating the much inferior Army of the Persians. Presuming upon this, he enter'd the Mountains in quest of his Enemy, and found himself hamper'd in Defiles, where he form'd his Army in the best Manner that the Ground would permit him. Kouli-Kan having thereupon divided his Army into three Bodies, attacked the Turks with so much Vigour, that in a few Hours he gained a compleat Victory. The Turkish Infantry, consisting almost all of Janizaries, was intirely defeated, and were for most Part either killed on the Spot or taken Prisoners. The Cavalry, who did not make so much Resistance, was vigorously pursued above 3 Leagues by Kouli-Kan himself, who totally dispersed them. Among the Slain are the Seraskier Abdullach Bashaw, two other Bashaws of the first Rank, and 4 of the Second, of which Number is Mustapha Bashaw, the Grand Seignior's Son-in-Law. Among the Prisoners, besides several other Bashaws and Persons of Distinction, is Mehemet Bashaw, who arrived lately in the Army with a considerable Sum of Money from Constantinople. The Turkish Artillery, consisting of 32 Pieces of Cannon, fell into the Hands of the Conqueror, with all their Ammunition, the Military Chest, Baggage, &c. The few Troops that escap'd the Slaughter, retired part to the neighbouring Towns, and the rest to the Mountains, which last will infallibly fall into the Hands of the Persians. The Towns that are besieged or blocked up, having no hopes of any Relief since this Defeat, the Commander at Gensha has already demanded a Capitulation; and 'tis not doubted, but those of the other Places will follow his Example; so that Kouli-Kan by this Victory, will, in all Appearance, be soon Master not only of all the Country which the Turks had conquered from Persia, but be likewise in a Condition to carry his victorious Arms into the Ottoman Empire.

From the Upper Rhine, Aug. 27. Forty-five Soldiers of the French and Swiss, who were taken Prisoners on the 3d Instant by the Imperialists, thro' the Treachery of a Woman, are since sent back to us, to prevent the burning of the Village, which otherwise was threaten'd to be laid in Ashes.

We are now of Opinion that the Campaign will not end so soon as was expected; that the Conclusion of it will not be so gentle as the Beginning was; and that it will be closed with some signal Action.

The Russian Troops are arrived in the Camp prepared for them on the other Side of the Neckar, in the Neighbourhood of Heidelberg, where a Camp is also marked out for the Imperial Army, which is expected there every Moment from Bruchsal. Prince George of Hesse-Cassel, who has 18 Cannon with him, is marched with his Troops towards Mentz. The 4 Battalions and 2 Squadrons of the Troops of the Empire, that were in the Rhingau, are also marched to join the grand Army, and are re-placed by 2 Hessian Regiments, under Command of Prince Maximilian of Hesse-Cassel. All the Boat-Men of Neckersthal have Orders to be ready with their Boats at the Places appointed. The Lines which the French are making in the Spirebach, are almost finished.

Friburg, Aug. 26. The 23d at Night an Express arrived from Prince Eugene, with Orders for the Battalions of Rumpf, Muffling, and Maximilian of Hesse-Cassel, which were partly garisoned here, and partly in Old Brisac, to repair forthwith to the Army of the Empire. The Regiment of Saxe-Eysenach is also gone to join the Army under General Petrasch in the Black Forest.

Ladenbourg, Aug. 27. The first Column of the Russian Troops arrived here Yesterday, under Command of General Lascy, who took his Quarters here; and the second Column arrived To-day in the Camp marked out for them between this Place and Heidelberg. They are all pick'd Men, and so inured to Fatigue, that they look as if they were but just come out of Winter-Quarters, tho' they have had so painful and tedious a March. Prince Eugene took his Quarters at Heidelberg the 26th ult. and most of the Imperial Troops are encamped in that Neighbourhood. Those of Franconia, Swabia, and some other associated Circles remain in the Camp at Bruchsal, to the Number of about 20,000 Men. The Enemy is also entirely decamped from the Neighbourhood of Oppenheim, except a flying Camp that remains there, under the Count de Bellisle. The Marshal de Coigny, who is on the March towards Philipsburg, has caused two or three Bridges to be laid over the Rhine near that Place, as if he designed to pass the Rhine there.

Frankfort, Aug. 28. Prince Eugene decamped from Bruchsal two Days ago with the main Army, and arrived the same Day at Heidelberg, where he has his head Quarters; and Yesterday his Troops encamped in the Neighbourhood of Seckenheim, Wichtengen, and Neckerau.

Mentz, Aug. 28. The French have entirely abandoned the Neighbourhood of this City, and some Troops are detached to disturb their Rear-Guard. We are actually lay..ng a Bridge over the Rhine near Weisenau, half a League from hence, for the Passage of 40,000 Men. 'Tis thought Prince Eugene will pass this River with the whole Army on the Side of ...heim.

Ratisbon, Aug. 25. We have received Advice, ... the Elector of Bavaria's Quota, amounting to ... Men, has Orders to march this Week to the Ar... the Rhine.

Como, Aug. 20. A Quantity of Rain has lately ... in this Country, which has very much abated the ... ceffive Heats. 'Tis confirmed from Mantua, ... Garison is in Want of Fewel and fresh Meat. ... Imperialists in the Trentin make all the necessary ... parations to return into Italy next Month, ... Army of 50,000 Men.

Modena, Aug. 16. Tho' the Spaniards have ... repulsed with Loss in their several Attacks upon ... Out-works of Mirandola, yet they have ruined ... the Bastions; so that they can discover the ... Batteries of the Place, of which they have dism... 15 Cannon. The Besieged having abandoned ... covered Way, the Besiegers have taken Possi... both that and the Pallisadoes; and they have ... prepared a great Number of Gabions, and filled ... dance of Sacks with Earth, but they have also ... Fascines ready to fill up the Ditch, in order ... proach the Bastion called Conception, which is ... in a Manner ruined. Mean time the Bravery ... Garison cannot be sufficiently admired; and ... the Spaniards have already lost 6000 Men, so ... have not above 9000 left; and their Hospitals ... also with sick and wounded Men.

LONDON.

Yesterday Morning about 4 o'Clock a West ... try Barge was sunk between Barnes and Hamm... by which Accident two Men were drowned; but ... others saved themselves by swiming ashore.

The same Day the Taylor, one of the last ... M'Cray's Witnesses, who swore, that on Wed... the 4th of June, between 4 and 5 o'Clock in the ... ternoon, he brought him a Grey Suit of Cloaths, ... found him lying upon the Bed at his Lodging, ... which Time the said M'Cray robbed Messr. H... ton, Seale, and Jeffs, on the Highway near ... Common, and who was the chief Person that ... Kingston as counterfeit Judge (before the real Ti... examine the Evidences, and make them ready ... Story, &c. was apprehended at Limehouse, and ... carried before one of his Majesty's Justices of the ... was committed to the New Jail in Southwark, in ... to be tried at the next Assizes for the County of ... for wilful and corrupt Perjury.

The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells lay last Sa... dangerously ill at his Palace at Wells in the Co... Somerset.

Last Wednesday died at the Bath, in a very adv... Age, William Hornbey of Taviftock in the Co... Devon, Esq; a Gentleman of a very ancient Fa... said to have died worth 5000 l. per Annum.

On Monday last his Majesty's Ships the Dolphin ... Experiment, were paid off at Portsmouth; and ... same Day the Company of his Majesty's Ship ... Kinsale, was paid their Wages to the 30th of ... last.

This Morning the Books and Money will be ... from the Pay Office in Broad-street to Sheerness, ... off the Company of his Majesty's Ship the Winche... and also the Books and Money to pay the Officers ... his Majesty's Ship the Biddiford, who have passed ... Accounts.

The Companies of the Winchelsea and Experi... are to be removed into his Majesty's Ships at Spit... and the said Ships are to be Rebuilt.

Monday last Jacob Wright of Brook-street, E... Gentleman of a very good Estate, was marri... Windsor to Miss Jenkins, Daughter of John Je... of Holyport, in the County of Berks, Esq; a Fo... of 16,000 l.

BANKRUPT.

Edward Hill, of Hungerford Market, in the Co... ty of Middlesex, Poulterer.

Yesterday Bank Stock was 139 7-8ths. India ... 1-half. South Sea 81 7-8ths. Old Annuity 107 3-... to 1-half. New ditto 106 to 1-8th. Three per C... 93 3-4ths. Emperor's Loan 98 1-half. Royal-A... rance 96 1-4th. London-Assurance 12 3-8ths. ... Buildings 4. African 15 1-half. India Bonds 4 l. ... Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 21. 12s. Prem... South Sea Bonds 31. Premium. Bank Circu... 81. 7s. 6d. Premium. Salt Tallies 31. Prem... English Copper 21. 2s. Premium. Welsh ... Books shut. Three 1-half per Cent. Exch... Orders 1 l. 5s. per Cent. Discount.

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